



# A VIEW FROM FEW

AN ORGANIZATION FOR OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY  
FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT

SPACE COAST CHAPTER, KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FL  
<http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/groups/few/>

APRIL 2005

## SPACE COAST CHAPTER, FEW 2004 – 2005 Officers and Committees

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Finance

Newsletter Editor

NTP/RTP Planners

Nominations

Parliamentarian

Dawn Partlow

Johanna Velasquez

Muzette Fiander

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Karin Biega

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Muzette Fiander

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Compliance

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Sandy Eliason

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Nat'l VP for Training

Nat'l Treasurer

Nat'l Bylaws &

Resolutions

Regional Awards

Regional Nominations/

Elections

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Becky Fasulo

Clara Anderson

Karin Biega

Barbara Powell

Vickie Hall

Jean Grenville

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dawn Partlow*

Our special Membership Meeting is here. Everyone mark your calendars and bring a friend on **Tuesday, April 19, at the Holiday Inn in Cocoa Beach.** Kimmarie Barrett will be presenting. We already have six new members as a result of the seminar and Ellie Miller's efforts at the membership table.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Program on March 2 and 3 was a great success! My sincere thanks to the ATP Committee headed by Vickie Hall and co-chaired by Sandy Eliason and Barbara Powell. This was a great team effort by our Space Coast Chapter members. We have heard nothing but good comments about the keynote and workshop speakers and the seminar overall.

Please get in touch with Martha Carroll if you would like to participate in the FEW activities for Keep Brevard Beautiful, 2005 Trash Bash, on Saturday, April 16, 8a-12noon at Ramp Road Park, Cocoa Beach.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the seminar and for all the extra time you contributed in making this a successful event.

## FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN SPACE COAST CHAPTER ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

*Ellie Miller*

Continue to "Challenge Yourself in a Changing World" and join us for our Membership Drive Meeting. Everyone is invited.

The meeting will be held Tuesday, April 19, 2005, at the Holiday Inn, Cocoa Beach beginning at 4:30. A light buffet will be provided and Kimmarré Barrett of KSC will give an overview of Office 2003.

Since we are having this meeting at the Holiday Inn, we are required to provide the hotel with the number of people we plan to have in attendance, so please RSVP by **April 14<sup>th</sup>**.

Plan to attend this meeting and bring along a friend who is interested in our great group. FEW is one of the limited number of groups that truly speak to women's issues.

To RSVP or receive further information, feel free to call me at 853-6444, e-mail: [Eleanor.Miller@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov](mailto:Eleanor.Miller@jbosc.ksc.nasa.gov), or Jean Grenville at 453-0226, e-mail: [jeangrenville@aol.com](mailto:jeangrenville@aol.com).

We look forward to seeing you and your guest at this important meeting!



## SUNSHINE

*Vivian Andreasson*

Celebrating birthdays in April:

Aneta Ott	April 5
Karin Biega	April 8

**Happy Birthday!**

If you notice anyone missing please email Muzette Fiander at [Muzette.B.Fiander@nasa.gov](mailto:Muzette.B.Fiander@nasa.gov)

## National Training Program (NTP) Update

*Submitted by Vickie Hall*

Make plans now to attend the 36<sup>th</sup> annual FEW National Training Program, July 18-22, 2005 in

Reno, NV. Information is posted on the FEW website, [www.few.org](http://www.few.org). The NTP is designed for all public, private, and Federal employees, including military personnel, in a myriad of positions and at all managerial and supervisory levels and is consistent with OPM training. Online registration begins March 15, 2005. Lodging is available at the Reno Hilton for \$69 for a single or double room.

## FLORIDA HISTORY AND CULTURE



*Submitted by Vickie Hall*

### Name Origins of Florida Places

Florida's cities and counties are named for influential residents, Indian words used to describe the area, and former governors. I have found these to be interesting so I'll include a few of these each month just to help educate you on a little more on Florida's history.

**Dade City**, Pasco County -- The city is named for Maj. Francis Langhorne Dade, a U.S. Army officer killed by Seminoles at the start of the Second Seminole War.

**Daytona Beach**, Volusia County -- Daytona Beach is named after its founder, Mathias Day.

**DeFuniak Springs**, Walton County -- Col. Fred Defuniak, an official of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, gave his name to the town.

**Fenholloway and Fenholloway River**, Taylor County -- The source of the word Fenholloway (finalui) is Muskogee "fina" (footlog) and "halwi" (high), making "high footlog." The river runs through the town.

**Fernandina Beach**, Nassau County -- Fernandina was the early name of Cuba. Fernandina claims to be the oldest city in the United States.

**Flagler Beach**, Flagler County -- City's name comes from Henry M. Flagler, a early Florida railroad tycoon.

**Floridatown**, Santa Rosa County -- With one of the oldest place names in this state, Floridatown was a trading post when controlled the state.

**Fort Dade**, Pasco County -- This town is also named for Maj. Francis Langhorne Dade.

**Fort Lauderdale**, Broward County -- This one comes from Maj. William Lauderdale.

**Fort Myers**, Lee County -- This city is named for Gen. Abraham Charles Myers, a distinguished officer in the U.S. Army.

**Fort Pierce**, St. Lucie County -- Named for Lt. Col. Benjamin Kendrick Pierce, the brother of former U.S. President Franklin Pierce, the fort was headquarters of the Army of the South under General Jesup.

**Fort Walton Beach**, Okaloosa County -- The town is named after Camp Walton, a **SPECIAL EVENT**:

Confederate military site built in 1861 to guard East Pass during the Civil War.

**Frostproof**, Polk County -- It was named by cowboys who brought cattle to the region during the winter months to get away from frost.

My source of information  
<http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/facts/>

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

*Jean Grenville*

**Tuesday, April 19, 2005 - Annual Membership Meeting, at the Cocoa Beach Holiday Inn:** Please see Ellie Miller's article concerning this meeting. We hope you will all plan to attend and bring at least one guest. We **do** need your RSVP so please call or e-mail Ellie Miller or Jean Grenville as soon as possible so we can make arrangements for the light buffet with the hotel.

**Wednesday, May 18, 2005 - Please note date change of our May meeting to be held at the CHIO building at the SR 3 gate.** This

meeting will be an important business meeting to discuss upcoming events for the balance of the year, to announce the new officers for 2005 – 2006 and to discuss any pending business. Light refreshments will be served. Please attend and help us make decisions about our chapter.

**June 2005, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday or Thursday of month:** Annual Awards and Installation Banquet. Plans will be made to select location and menu, theme, installing officer, etc for our annual dinner after election of new officers. This is always a special event and a great evening of networking. Keep those dates open on your calendar. We'll get you more information as soon as possible.



### Fabulous Florida Follies

Aneta Ott has a suggestion for a special event for us.

**What? Fabulous Follies -**

*Featuring an entire cast of Golden Age Entertainers (all over 50)*

*Singers, Dancers, Specialty acts, Hilarious Sketch Comedy and of course those Glorious, Glamorous show Girls*

*Come step back in time to the days of the Ziegfeld Follies and help us prove we still got it!!!!*

**Where?** It is to be held at the Gleason Auditorium in Melbourne

**When?** Saturday night, April 23, 8:00m or Sunday Matinee, April 24, 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$9.00 for a group of 10, or \$12 for less than 10.

Please let me know if you are interested in attending at [jeangrenville@aol.com](mailto:jeangrenville@aol.com) or phone 453-0226. Aneta Ott has the flyer and can be contacted at [Lashal@aol.com](mailto:Lashal@aol.com) for further information. We could also plan on having lunch as a group at a nice restaurant in Melbourne.

**Cocoa Kiwanis** in conjunction with co-Sponsors, **The Salvation Army North Central Brevard County and The Boys & Girls Club of Brevard**, are having a Kids Fishing Day Saturday, May 7, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. for children ages 6-16. **Free Admission!** Free poles, bait, soda & hot dogs. Martin Road (just off Fiske Blvd) in Rockledge. For more information contact Zeke Clifton at 631-0150.



## **GOVERNMENT NEWS & LEGISLATION**

*Marie Argana*

### **FEW Legislative Agenda**

Copies of FEW's Legislative agenda and statistics showing the number of Federal employees in each congressional district were hand-delivered to every legislator's office on Capitol Hill. The revised Federal Employment Statistical map that details how many federal employees work in every congressional district is posted on the FEW website. The Agenda also is on the FEW website in the Legislative section; hard copies are available from the FEW headquarters office.

### **Effective/Efficient Government Reform**

The Senate subcommittee that oversees the federal workforce served notice that it will be monitoring how the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) applies new pay and personnel regulations to 110,000 of its civil service employees. Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH), Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee that handles civil service issues, acknowledged that "there is strong disagreement over these final regulations."

Future hearings, Voinovich said, will focus on the department's pay and performance-management plans, the effectiveness of departmental leadership and the strategy used to explain the regulations to employees.

On another front, in a report issued to Congress, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) warned of potential problems with the new personnel system for DHS. "DHS has considerable work ahead to define the details of the implementation of its system," says the GAO

report, "and getting those details right will be critical to the success of the overall system."

The report also notes the lack of established "core competency" measurements that can help to communicate to employees what is expected of them. Moreover, the vaguely drawn rating plan outlined in the regulations does "not provide meaningful differentiation in performance needed for transparency to employees, and for making the most informed pay decisions." The report goes on to call for the need for the implementation of a performance management system "that includes adequate safeguards to help assure consistency and prevent abuse."

The chairman of the Merit System Protection Board (MSPB) told a congressional subcommittee that disciplinary process changes to take hold at DHS would put employee rights at risk and overburden MSPB's judges. Homeland Security rules require that the Board expedite DHS cases, mandating that initial decisions by MSPB judges be rendered within 90 days. The board's current standard is 120 days.

### **Retirement/Pension**

Sens. Dianne Feinstein's (D-VA) and Susan Collins (R-ME), Chairwoman of the Senate Government Reform Committee, introduced S 619 – a bill that repeals both the GPO and WEP Social Security provisions. They were joined by seven of their colleagues.

And on the other side of the Capitol, Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL) introduced a bill (HR 750) that would, among other measures, reduce the Government Pension Offset (GPO) from two-thirds to one-third. It also would create personal Social Security guarantee accounts, and make other changes to the Social Security system.

Finally, House Government Reform Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) and Sen. John Warner (R-VA) each introduced in their respective congressional chambers Premium Conversion bills that will allow federal retirees to pay their health insurance premiums with pre-tax dollars. More information on this bill, and others, is available on the FEW Grassroots website at [www.capwiz.com/few](http://www.capwiz.com/few)

### **Privatization/Outsourcing**

More than 100 administrative workers at the Office of Personnel Management failed in an attempt to defend their jobs against contractors. OPM awarded Transtecs Corp., a small business based in KS, a 52-month, \$16.8 million contract to handle clerical work previously performed by 163 full-time employees (40 of those employees already have decided to leave). The decision casts a shadow on OPM employees' otherwise flawless job competition record. Displaced OPM employees will be given a chance to work for the contractor, which expects to provide the clerical and other office services with 90 people.

A contractor in Alexandria, VA also beat out a team of federal employees competing for a facilities management contracts at the Energy Department. The contract, valued at \$26.8 million over five years, went to Logistics Applications, Inc., a firm that specializes in facilities management, information services and training. The work is now being done by about 90 employees in Washington. This is the largest competition to be won by a private contractor.

However, Agriculture Department employees won a recent competition at a Beltsville, MD facility even though their offer of \$57.4 million was \$2 million higher than the private sector bid. The in-house team was able to win the competition because the offers were adjusted to include the cost of converting the work to the private sector. This added \$4 million to the contractor's bid, pushing it above the in-house offer.

### **Family Member Care**

Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-CT) introduced a bill (S 282) that would expand the scope of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The bill creates a pilot program grant initiative to help states design ways to offer six weeks of partial or full paid leave, which would count toward the FMLA-allowed 12 weeks of leave, for eligible employees who take time to care for a child or a family member. The bill would also make an additional 13 million working men and women eligible for FMLA by covering employers with 25 or more employees (the law currently only applies to workers at businesses with more than 50 employees), and would allow eligible

employees to take FMLA leave to help themselves or their families address the effects of domestic violence.

Lastly, this new legislation would allow employees to take up to 24 hours a year to participate in school activities of a son or daughter, such as a parent-teacher conference or to participate in literacy training under a family literacy program.

On the other side of the Capitol, Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) introduced a bill (HR 476) that would amend the FMLA to allow employees to take parental involvement leave to participate in or attend their children's and grandchildren's educational and extracurricular activities and to clarify that leave may be taken for routine family medical needs and to assist elderly relatives.

### **Base Closing Panel Filled Out**

President Bush has filled out the Base Realignment and Closings commission, naming eight persons to join former Veterans Affairs secretary Anthony Principi, who earlier was named as chairman of the panel. The other eight members are former Nevada Rep. James H. Bilbray, Philip Coyle, a senior adviser to the Center for Defense Information, Retired Navy Adm. Harold W. Gehman Jr., former Utah Rep. James V. Hansen, Retired Army Gen. James T. Hill, Retired Army Lt. Gen. Claude M. Kicklighter, assistant secretary for policy and planning at VA, Samuel Knox Skinner, a former Secretary of Transportation and Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Sue Ellen Turner. The group is due to receive a set of proposals from the Pentagon by May 16 and will make its recommendations to President Bush by September 8.

### **Full Constitutional Rights for Women:**

A resolution was introduced in the House of Representatives (HRes 155) requiring the House to take any legislative action necessary to verify the ratification of the ERA when the legislatures of an additional three states ratify the Amendment. There are 15 co-sponsors, and it was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.



## **Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

A resolution (HRes 67) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Senate should ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was introduced in the House by Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA).

## **E-Mail Notices about Government Closings:**

The Office of Personnel Management recently introduced a way for people to subscribe to an e-mail list for notices about whether the federal government is open, closed or on an administrative leave policy. Subscriptions are available to anyone, and currently 10,700 individuals have signed up. Agencies, employees and anyone interested in knowing when the federal government's operation status is changed can receive e-mail updates notifying them of the operating status by going to this website – <http://www.opm.gov/status/subscribe.aspx> and providing their name and e-mail address.

## **Women's Health** *Submitted by Vickie Hall*

TORONTO (CP) - Researchers in Canada and the United States are embarking on a clinical trial to see if a drug which is highly effective in treating breast cancer could be used to prevent it. The five-year study, led by renowned breast cancer researcher Dr. Paul Goss, should answer the question of whether drugs called aromatase inhibitors have a role to play in disease prevention in women after they go through menopause - the time of life when three-quarters of breast cancers are diagnosed.

Goss, who is conducting a number of ongoing treatment studies with this class of drugs, said the prevention trial - launched Wednesday - was 10 years in the planning. "For us it's the real cherry on the cake and we're very, very excited about it," he said from Boston, where he is director of breast cancer research at Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center. "We're fairly sure it's going to work well too." The trial is being coordinated by the National

Cancer Institute of Canada clinical trials group and is funded in part by the Canadian Cancer Society.

Currently there is little that doctors can offer women who are at high risk of developing breast cancer, apart from the always sage advice to eat a healthy diet and exercise. The one drug currently proven to help prevent breast cancer, tamoxifen, has significant side-effects, such as the risk of developing deep vein thrombosis (blood clots) and uterine cancer. Running those risks may make sense to a woman who has had cancer and fears a recurrence. But women who don't know whether they will develop the disease have been reluctant to take them on.

"If successful, this clinical trial really has the opportunity to offer another option for women who are at increased risk of developing breast cancer," said Sarah Bouma, senior manager for research with the Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario division. One of the Canadian investigators said a positive outcome could lead to a day when menopausal women will routinely sit down with their doctors to figure out whether breast cancer prevention therapy makes sense for them. "If this trial does establish that this drug not only reduces the incidence of breast cancer - which I am pretty optimistic it will - but also is safe and tolerable by the majority of women, I think that that type of conversation may become something that is common in doctors' offices," said Dr. Eric Winquist, a medical oncologist at the London Health Sciences Centre in London, Ont. But Goss does not anticipate a future in which all menopausal women would be offered this drug, exemestane, for cancer prevention. In fact, he's hoping this trial, named the ExCel study, will help determine who would benefit and who would not. "We believe at the conclusion of this trial we will be able to say: 'You know what? Not everyone who entered this trial did need it in hindsight.' But we strongly believe we can't find that out without doing the trial," explained Goss, who until last year practiced at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto.

It's hoped that 4,500 healthy post-menopausal women who are considered at high risk will be enrolled in Canada, the United States and Spain.

High risk is determined by using a tool called a Gail score, which looks at a woman's age, family breast cancer history, age of first menstrual period, age at the time of first live birth and number of previous breast biopsies. Half will receive exemestane and the other half will receive a placebo. Neither the women nor their doctors will know who is getting which. Treatment will continue for five years and the women will be followed well after that, Goss said, to compare breast cancer rates among those who took the drug and those who did not. But it is expected that initial results of the study may be available within about four years.

Janet Adams, a nurse from Port Hope, Ont., is one of two Canadians who've already enrolled. Adams has been taking her daily pill since December. She feels no real side-effects - exemestane can cause mild nausea and hot flashes - and suspects she is in the placebo arm. Still, she believes it's important to help find whether this drug can cut the rate of breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Canadian women and is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women in this country.

"It's more for my daughter," Adams said. "For my daughter's generation. I may be on the placebo and not getting any of the benefits of the exemestane. In five years the results will be out and we will know whether it does prevent breast cancer or not. So when my daughter's of the age, she'll be able to take the pill, hopefully, to prevent breast cancer."

There is evidence to suggest the drug may work. For instance, it's been shown to prevent the occurrence of new cancers in the opposite breast in women who have already had a breast cancer.

The drug works by suppressing estrogen, which fuels the growth of most breast cancers. Unlike other aromatase inhibitors, it is not believed that women who take it run a higher risk of developing osteoporosis.

The drug is made by Pfizer. The company is donating the needed drugs for the trial.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

*Submitted by Clara Anderson*

**Did you know that "teamwork" is a word that we hear more and more about everyday?**

Organizations of all types accomplish more when people work together. But how is that done when a team is simply made up of a collection of individuals many times with their own agendas and ideas? One of the many qualities, that if embraced, will make us all better team members:

### **Adaptability**

It has been said "***Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.***" How true this is. If you want to be a good team player, you must be willing to "adapt" yourself to your team. Personal agendas and rigidity have no place within a team. You must be willing to accept change – it is inevitable. We are constantly bombarded with new ideas and new ways of doing our jobs. The person who will flourish will be accepting of change in themselves and in others in order to bring about higher levels of achievement.

Quincy Jones (the singer/musician) once said "***A person's age can be determined by the degree of pain he experiences when he comes in contact with a new idea.***" If you are willing to accept change and adapt for the sake of others around you – you will always win!!

## **COCOA VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE**

*Anything Goes*

Apr 23 – May 9

## **SURFSIDE PLAYERS**

*Dial "M" for Murder*

Apr 29 – May 15

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **April**

- 16 2005 Trash Bash
- 19 FEW Membership Meeting  
Holiday Inn, Cocoa Beach, 4:30
- 24 Passover
- 27 Administrative Professionals Day

### **SPACE COAST CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

*Muzette Fiander*

This monthly publication is a means of sharing information and ideas. Please send news articles or items of interest for this Newsletter to Muzette Fiander, TA-E1, or e-mail at [Muzette.B.Fiander@nasa.gov](mailto:Muzette.B.Fiander@nasa.gov)

Please feel free to share this Newsletter with your friends. And for anyone interested, a Membership Application is attached as the last page.

### **Insight for the Day**

Stand up to your obstacles and do something about them. You will find that they haven't half the strength you think they have.

- Norman Vincent Peale

And then a little humor –

### **Accountant and Farmer**

A man walking along a road in the countryside comes across a shepherd and a huge flock of sheep. Stopping to rest, he tells the shepherd, "I will bet you \$100 against one of your sheep that I can tell you the exact number in this flock."

The shepherd thinks it over. It's a big flock, so he takes the bet.

The man looks around and answers, "869." The shepherd is astonished, because that is exactly right.

The shepherd says, "Okay, I'm a man of my word, take an animal." The man picks one up and begins to walk away.

"Wait," cries the shepherd, "let me have a chance to get even. Double or nothing that I can guess your exact occupation." The man agrees.

"You are an accountant for the government," says the shepherd.

"Amazing!" responds the man. "You are exactly right! But tell me, how did you deduce that?"

"Well," says the shepherd, "put down my dog and I will tell you."



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN  
P. O. BOX 75551  
BALTIMORE, MD 21275**

Month/Year joined:  /  Membership ID

LAST NAME:  FIRST NAME:  MI

ADDRESS 1:

ADDRESS 2:

CITY:  STATE  ZIP CODE + 4

OFFICE PHONE:  HOME PHONE:

FAX:  EMAIL:

<b>GRADE (check)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> GS 1-4 <input type="checkbox"/> GS 5-8 <input type="checkbox"/> GS 9-12 <input type="checkbox"/> GS 13-15 <input type="checkbox"/> GS 16+	<b>FWP/EEO (check)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> SES <input type="checkbox"/> WG <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Other  <input type="checkbox"/> FWP Full-Time <input type="checkbox"/> FWP Part-Time <input type="checkbox"/> EEO <input type="checkbox"/> Other FWP/EEO Not Applicable	<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b> SEX (M/F): <input type="text"/> RACE: <input type="text"/> YEARS OF SERVICE: <input type="text"/> RETIRED (Y/N) <input type="text"/>
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**ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION**

FEW is comprised of chapters throughout the world. Membership is open to all Federal and DC Government employees (regular members) and to any other person supporting the goals and objectives of FEW (associate members). More information about the organization is posted on the FEW web site: <http://www.few.org>.

National membership dues are \$25.00 for chapter members, and \$35.00 for members-at-large (no chapter affiliation). Chapter dues are established by each chapter and payable in addition to national dues. Eligibility for chapter membership is contingent upon national membership. National lifetime membership is a one-time fee of \$250.00. Chapters may set their own lifetime fee.

Membership Dues is prorated. Month chosen must match "month/year joined" above.

<input type="checkbox"/> March \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> September \$12.00	Total for National \$ <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> April \$23.00	<input type="checkbox"/> October \$10.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> May \$21.00	<input type="checkbox"/> November \$ 8.00	Total for Chapter \$ <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> June \$19.00	<input type="checkbox"/> December \$ 6.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> July \$17.00	<input type="checkbox"/> January \$ 4.00	Check Amount \$ <input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> August \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> February \$ 2.00	

I wish to join the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter as a ☐ regular member or ☐ associate member.

I wish to join as a Member-at-large (prorated amount from above + \$10.00 enclosed)

as a ☐ regular member or ☐ associate member.

Payment (\$250.00) is enclosed for a Lifetime Membership.